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Monthly Performance Report

J. D. EVANS
HOUSE B
MARCH 1979





National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

National Solar Data Program

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MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

J. D. EVANS, INC. HOUSE B

MARCH 1979

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

- J. D. Evans, Inc., House B is one of two instrumented single-family residences in Columbia, Maryland. The home has approximately 2250 square feet of conditioned space. Solar energy is used for space heating the home and preheating domestic hot water (DHW). The solar energy system has an array of flat-plate collectors with a gross area of 374 square feet. The array faces south at an angle of 45 degrees to the horizontal. Water is the transfer medium that delivers solar energy from the collector array to storage and to the space heating and hot water loads. Solar energy is stored in the basement in a 1000-gallon steel storage tank. Incoming city water is preheated in a liquid-to-liquid heat exchanger located in the storage tank and then flows into a conventional 40-gallon DHW tank. When solar energy is insufficient to satisfy the space heating load, a heat exchanger within a heat pump and an electrical heating element in the air-distribution duct provides auxiliary energy for space heating. Similarly, an electrical heating element in the DHW tank provides auxiliary energy for water heating. The system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has three modes of solar operation.
- Mode 1 Collector-to-Storage: This mode activates when the temperature difference between the storage tank and the collector outlet is higher than 15°F. Water circulates from the storage tank through the collector until a temperature difference of less than 5°F is reached.
- Mode 2 Storage-to-Space Heating: This mode activates when thermal energy for space heating is requested by the room thermostat. Solar-heated water from storage circulates through a liquid-to-air heat exchanger in the space heating air duct. If solar energy is insufficient to satisfy the space heating load, the heat pump and/or the auxiliary electrical heating element will be activated. The electrical strip heater can also be manually operated without solar heating and heat pump operation.
- Mode 3 DHW Preheating: This mode is activated by drawing hot water from the system. Cold supply water is preheated in a liquid-to-liquid heat exchanger located in the solar energy storage tank before flowing to the DHW tank. If the required DHW tank temperature of 140°F is not maintained by solar preheating, auxiliary energy is provided by the electrical heating element in the DHW tank.

II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

The site was occupied in March and the solar energy system operated continuously during the month. Solar energy satisfied 69 percent of the space heating

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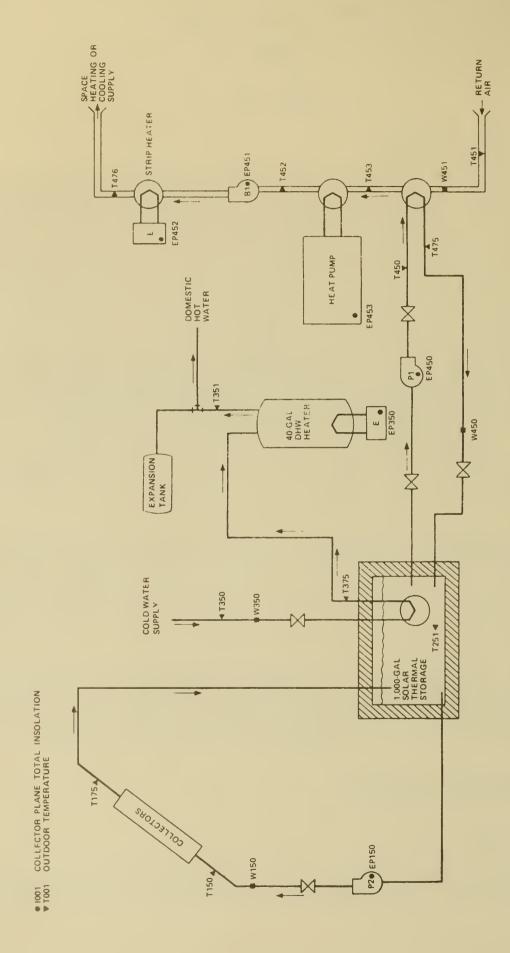


Figure 1. J. D. EVANS, INC., HOUSE B SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

requirements. Solar fraction of the DHW load and DHW auxiliary electrical energy were not determined because of problems with the DHW auxiliary energy sensor.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the month, total incident solar energy on the collector array was 17.6 million Btu for a daily average of 1519 Btu per square foot. This was above the estimated average daily solar radiation for this geographical area during March of 1381 Btu per square foot for a south-facing plane with a tilt of 45 degrees to the horizontal. The average ambient temperature during March was 46°F as compared with the long-term average for March of 43°F. The number of heating degree-days for the month (based on a 65°F reference) was 607, as compared with the long-term average of 688. The number of cooling degree-days was 8, as compared with the average of zero.

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

System - During March the solar energy system performed approximately the same as expected. The expected performance was determined from a modified f-chart analysis using measured weather and subsystem loads as inputs. Solar energy used by the system was estimated by assuming that all energy collected would be applied to the load. Actual solar energy used was 3.7 million Btu. The estimated system solar fraction was 81 percent. The actual solar fraction could not be determined because of a power-sensor problem with the DHW electrical heater.

Collector - The total incident solar radiation on the collector array for the month of March was 17.6 million Btu. During the period the collector loop was operating the total insolation amounted to 14.6 million Btu. The total collected solar energy for the month of March was 4.5 million Btu, resulting in a collector array efficiency of 26 percent, based on total incident insolation. Solar energy delivered from the collector array to storage was 4.5 million Btu. Operating energy required by the collector loop was 0.15 million Btu.

Storage - Solar energy delivered to storage was 4.5 million Btu. There were 3.7 million Btu delivered from storage to the DHW and space heating subsystems. Energy loss from storage was 0.82 million Btu. This loss represented 18 percent of the energy delivered to storage. The storage efficiency was 82 percent: This is calculated as the ratio of the sum of the energy removed from storage and the change in stored energy, to the energy delivered to storage. The average storage temperature for the month was 112°F.

DHW Load - The DHW subsystem consumed 0.87 million Btu of solar energy and an undetermined amount of auxiliary electrical energy to satisfy a hot water load of 1.6 million Btu. The DHW subsystem contributed an electrical energy savings of 0.87 million Btu. A daily average of 82 gallons of DHW was consumed at an average temperature of 117°F delivered from the tank.

<u>Space Heating Load</u> - The space heating subsystem consumed 2.8 million Btu of solar energy and 0.81 million Btu of auxiliary electrical energy to satisfy a

space heating load of 4.1 million Btu. The heat pump supplied 0.75 million Btu and the auxiliary electrical strip heater supplied 0.49 million Btu of the load requirements. The solar fraction of the space heating load was 69 percent. The space heating subsystem consumed a total of 0.42 million Btu of operating energy, resulting in an electrical energy savings of 1.4 million Btu. The average ambient temperature inside the house was 68°F.

OBSERVATIONS

The electrical energy savings for the space heating subsystem were determined based on conventional heating using a heat'pump.

ENERGY SAVINGS

The solar energy system provided a net electrical energy savings of 2.1 million Btu. The DHW subsystem provided an electrical energy savings of 0.87 million Btu, while the space heating subsystem contributed an electrical energy savings of 1.4 million Btu.

III. ACTION STATUS

Boeing is expected to investigate the power sensor problem with the DHW electrical heater.

SOLAR HEATING AND COCLING DEMCNSTRATION PROGRAM

MONTELY REPORT SITE SCHMARY

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REFERENCE: USER'S GUIDE TO THE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SCLAR DATA FACGRAM, FEERUARY 28, 1978, SCLAR/0004-78/18

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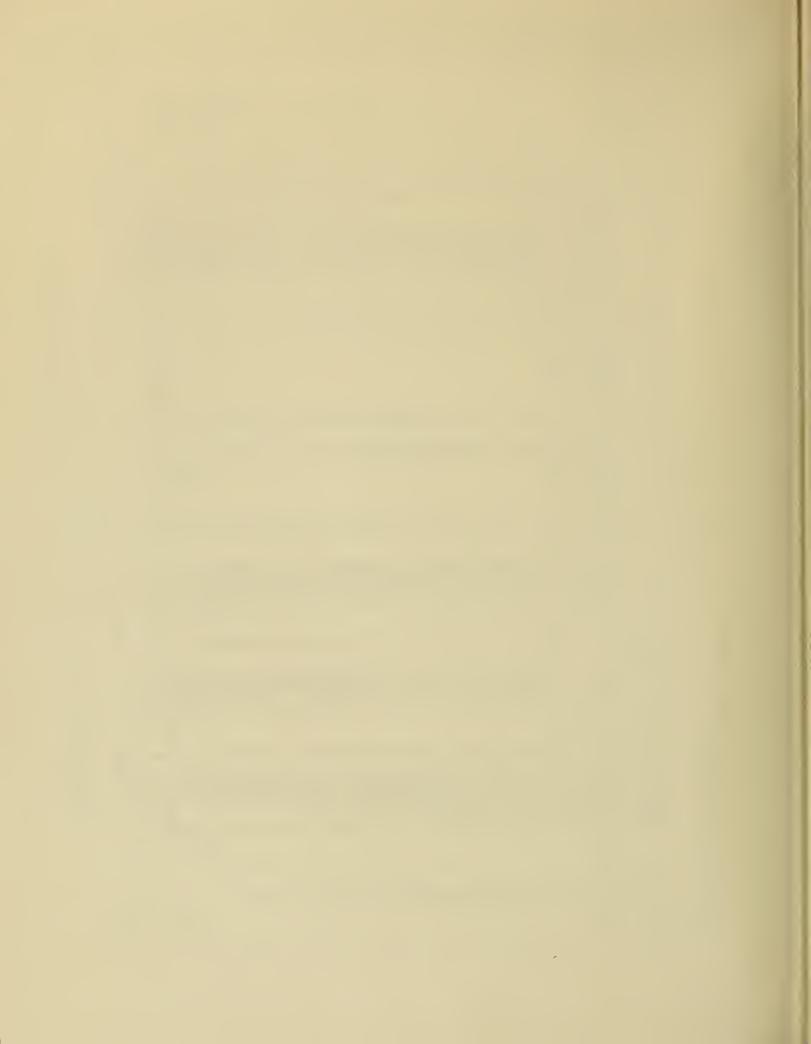
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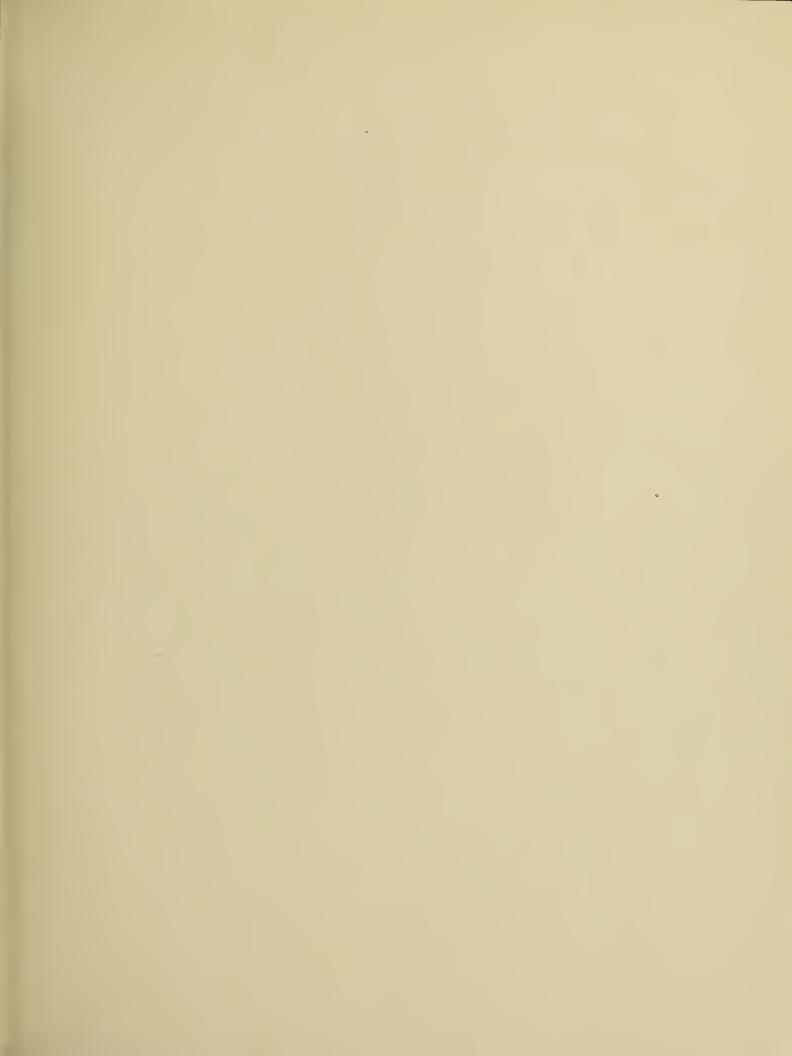
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